

Highlights:

District Welcomes New Director of Police, Safety and Emergency Services

Mojdeh Mehdizadeh is New Contra Costa College President

Congressman DeSaulnier Visits LMC As Part of Education Listening Tour

Community College Success Stories

Diablo Valley President Peter Garcia Announces Retirement

District Welcomes New Employees

March 2016 Board Reports

March 2016 Cabinet Highlights

District Welcomes New Director of Police, Safety and Emergency Services

The District welcomes **Edward Carney** as the new Director of Police, Safety and Emergency Services. He hails from New Jersey where he served proudly for 25 years with the Cherry Hill Police Department and then spent the last 10 years as Executive Director of Public Safety and Facilities at Camden County College. His extensive experience includes serving on SWAT teams, oversight of police training and special operations teams, as well as serving as a hazardous devices technician and emergency management coordinator.



Director of Police, Safety and Emergency Services **Edward Carney** joins the District after a lengthy career in police training, education and emergency operations.

With more than 30 years of police training under his belt, Carney has educated officers from the police academy level to nationally in a variety of areas. Following a lengthy career in training and emergency management, Carney then brought his expertise to the classroom, teaching online and at the community college level on topics such as Community Policing, Terrorism and Administration of Justice. Carney also worked closely with the community colleges public safety department where he implemented the continued education, counseling and training of safety officers.

Carney is looking forward to working with the diverse populations found at the three colleges and getting to know the students. "I have the unique background of being law enforcement but then having a substantial number of years in community college work that really focuses on community policing," shared Carney. "Now, I can focus on the community and relationship sides of policing. It's about outreach, it's about listening, it's about trust and visibility."

Carney earned his Master's Degree in Human Resource Development from Seton Hall University as well as his Bachelor's Degree in Human Services from Thomas Edison State College, and is a graduate of the West Point Command and Leadership Program.



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Mojdeh Mehdizadeh is New Contra Costa College President



Mojdeh Mehdizadeh, who acted as Interim Contra Costa College President for the past year, was appointed permanent president of the college.

With more than 25 years of experience in higher education and several leadership roles within the Contra Costa Community College District (District), **Mojdeh Mehdizadeh** has been selected as the 11th President of Contra Costa College (CCC). The District's Governing Board voted to approve Mehdizadeh's new role at their Wednesday, March 23, 2016, meeting. "We are thrilled to select Mojdeh to permanently lead Contra Costa College," said Governing Board President Vicki Gordon. "She has brought stability to the college during her time as Interim President, and now she can continue her work in reestablishing CCC as our premier college in West County."

Mehdizadeh, who previously served as CCC Interim President and Executive Vice Chancellor of Education and Technology at the District Office, began her journey as a student at Diablo Valley College (DVC). She later explored a career at DVC in the area of student services and later institutional research. At the District Office, her responsibilities included support of the colleges' educational programs, student services, workforce and economic development, information technology, international education, research and planning, and grants. She has also served as adjunct faculty in Speech Communications and is actively engaged in state and national associations. Following her selection as permanent president, the District will now begin to take steps in permanently filling her former role.

"Over the past 11 years, I have watched Mojdeh grow as a leader," says Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. "This is a wonderful opportunity and a great fit for her leadership style and personality."

"The entire Contra Costa College faculty enthusiastically welcomes Mojdeh Mehdizadeh as our college president," said CCC Academic Senate President **Beth Goehring**. "President Mehdizadeh's knowledge, experience, and commitment to our college and community is what we need. With her vision, energy, and leadership, she will lead us and our students to a successful future."

Congressman DeSaulnier Visits LMC As Part of Education Listening Tour

As a freshman Member of Congress following in the footsteps of retired Congressman George Miller, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier sits on the House Education and Workforce Committee. One of his first actions as a new Member of Congress was to launch an Education Listening tour to discuss our education system and to hear firsthand from students, parents, educators, and school administrators. Congressman DeSaulnier is visiting every school district in his Congressional district as well as each institution of Higher Learning.

"So far on this tour, I have heard what has been working and what must be improved in schools and colleges across our district. As Congress continues to debate landmark education bills, I look forward to sharing this feedback with my colleagues in Washington and integrating it into my future work on the Education and the Workforce Committee. At the top of my list is affordable higher education for all including exploring the high cost of text books," said Congressman DeSaulnier.



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier chats with LMC students during a stop on his listening tour.

Community College Success Stories

President Obama proposed America's College Promise, offering two years of free community college for responsible students. The Heads Up Campaign, a movement launched to support the Promise proposal, gained momentum as community colleges nationwide joined in the dialogue.

Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**, who is chairing California's College Promise Leadership Committee, put out a call for employees to share their story in order to highlight the tremendous value community colleges provide. *The News* will feature a few of the stories submitted every month.

Catherine Frost, Director, Admissions & Records at Contra Costa College Alumna, Solano College, Fairfield, CA

I was an employee at Solano College with great aspirations to move ahead. I loved my work, but knew that I could only advance with a degree, so I returned to school after a 20-year absence and obtained two A.A. degrees. I later went on to receive a B.A. and then M.A. in sociology. The professors at my community college were so inspiring and encouraging. They made going to class exciting.



Tess Brandt, Adjunct Professor in English at Diablo Valley College Alumna, American River College, Sacramento, CA

My father didn't want me to go to college. It's not that he wanted me to fail. He just didn't understand the value of a higher education. He couldn't appreciate my yearning to think smarter and be independent. He thought that a woman's role was to get married and have kids. She didn't need a college education for that. My three best friends—Laura, Theresa, and Patrice—were all going. Laura went to a private San Francisco nursing college. Theresa went to a state college, and Patrice, well, she got a full scholarship to U.C.L.A. When I heard about Patrice's good fortune, my stomach fell. My grades were better than hers, and I wasn't going anywhere.



I registered at American River Community College since my dad wouldn't pay tuition, and it was all I could afford from my job at the ice-cream shop. I also moved out of my parents' house so I could concentrate on school instead of babysitting my little brothers and sisters. My budget was at poverty-level. I worried about paying my rent and my tuition. I stressed about my car breaking down. I ate frugally. My parents let me take vegetables and fruit from their garden, so I lived on cheap colas and fresh produce, with an occasional slice of cheese and boiled egg. What I never skimmed on was school books and supplies. *To read more of Tess's story, visit the Community College Success Story page.*

Curtis Corlew, Professor in Art & Journalism at Los Medanos College Alumnus, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA & Los Medanos College, Pittsburg, CA

I was a reasonably terrible high school student with no idea what to do with my life. I was, however, smart enough to know that staying in school was better than taking a bad job. After several false starts in majors I didn't continue, Diablo Valley College set me on my path. I graduated and went to San Francisco State University, graduated (with honors no less!) and went on to work as a photojournalist for many years. When small computers appeared at my newspaper, I went to Los Medanos College (LMC) to find out about using them in design. I went on to become the graphics editor at my newspaper, and later worked at a now-defunct marketing and design company using the skills I learned at LMC. Through a wonderful series of unlikely miracles and coincidences I now teach journalism, graphic design and photography at LMC, hoping my students will have their lives affected in the same way as my own.



Each month, these community college success stories will be featured. To read all the stories submitted please visit: <http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/stories/list.aspx>

We'd love to hear your story, too! If you're a current employee of the Contra Costa Community College District, please submit your community college experience here:

<https://insite.4cd.edu/orgs/dwco/dst/ccss/pages/new.aspx>

Diablo Valley College President Peter Garcia Announces Retirement



DVC President Peter Garcia speaks to attendees at the recent DVC Commons project grand opening ceremonies.

After 30 years with the Contra Costa Community College District (District), Diablo Valley College (DVC) President **Peter Garcia** announced his retirement, effective June 30, 2016. Garcia's retirement was approved at the March 23, 2016, Governing Board meeting. Prior to the DVC presidency, Garcia served for eight years as the president of Los Medanos College (LMC), where he held a variety of faculty and administrator leadership roles throughout his tenure.

President Garcia expressed his appreciation for his colleagues and experience at both colleges. "I'm incredibly grateful for opportunities and people that both DVC and LMC brought to my life over these many years," shared Garcia.

"Peter has made a lasting impact on thousands of students and many employees as well as the communities served by the District during his tenure," said Chancellor **Helen Benjamin**. "He will surely be missed and fondly remembered as a leader who cared deeply about our students."

Board Report

To review highlights of the Governing Board Meeting held on March 23, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/the_news/March%202016.pdf

Cabinet Highlights

To review highlights of the Cabinet meeting held on March 22, 2016, click on the link below:

http://www.4cd.edu/crpa/chancellors_cabinet/March%202016.pdf

District Welcomes New Employees

Please welcome the following new employees who were approved by the Governing Board in March.

Regular Managers

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Brandy Howard	Director of Marketing and Media Design
DST	Sara Marcellino	Foundation Development Officer
DST	Tracy Marcial	Energy Manager

Regular Monthly Classified Employees

Location	Name	Title
CCC	Mia Henderson-Bonilla	Financial Aid Assistant II/Scholarship Coordinator
DVC	Tabraz Rashid	Office Assistant II
DVC	Sonny Tran	Custodian II
DVC	Aduana Williams	Custodian II
LMC	John Tiscareno	Equipment Maintenance Worker
LMC	Eden Olsen	Office Assistant II

The Contra Costa Community College District, founded in 1948 and governed by a publicly elected five-member board, is one of the largest multi-college community college districts in California. The mission of the District is to attract and transform students and communities by providing accessible, innovative and outstanding higher education learning opportunities and support services.

Contra Costa Community College District is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment, and campus life. The District does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, parental status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in any access to and treatment in College programs, activities, and application for employment